Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether the University authorities insist that only first class students will be admitted?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Yes. For the hon'ble member's information I may say that a person selected after the failure of the two candidates mentioned in the answer was a B.Sc. Even in that case they raised the question whether he is a first class. But I wrote to them saying that he is a first class.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know, Sir, what is the qualification with regard to students in other parts also?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* The same principle is followed. It is not intended to Cochin alone. That is the general University Rule.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda):* May I know, Sir, whether more than 6 students will not be given admission in the Benares Hindu University?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* As a matter of fact, for the last four years there had been more than 7 candidates. Last year there were only 6 and all of them were selected. There is no specific rule that only 6 will be admitted.

SWEET-TODDY TAPPING—HARDSHIP CAUSED TO TAPPERS—PETITION FROM PANIKKASSERI KONNAPPAN AND OTHERS

47. **Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have received any petition dated 20th Meenam 1115 from Panikkasseri Konnappan and about 80 others, employed as sweet-toddy tappers, belonging to Kanippayyur and the neighbouring villages of Talappalli Taluk, complaining to the Commissioner of Excise about certain grievances of theirs in respect of the grant of licenses for tapping;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what were the grievances which they had pointed out in the above-said petition;

(*c*) how many licenses for sweet-toddy tapping were issued or renewed in Kumbham and Meenam 1115 in the Kunnamkulam Excise Range;

(*d*) of the licenses referred to in (*c*), were there any for trees less than five for a person; if so, how many

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such licenses were issued for trees less than five for a person;

(*e*) whether any action was taken on the petition referred to in (*a*)?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):*

(*a*) A petition without date from Panikkasseri Konnappan and 80 others was received on 3rd April 1940.

(*b*) Their grievance was that they were not allowed more than four sago trees for sweet-toddy tapping.

(*c*) 19 in all.

(*d*) 7 licenses were issued for less than 5 trees.

(*e*) The petition was enquired into and recorded, as the petitioners' grievances were not real.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, was it imaginary grievance?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):* The grievance has no substance in it.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are the Government aware that when granting licenses only for limited number of trees for tapping, the tappers are put to much inconvenience?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):* No. In fact in the case of these 81 petitioners who had applied the whole number they applied for was allowed to them. There was absolutely no grievance in the matter.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Why did then they send a petition?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):* There are two statements recorded here, and you can see from that how this petition came. I shall read the statement of the first signatory.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it not made before the Excise authorities?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):* Yes. If you want, I shall read it.

Mr. President: The honourable member has not attached any importance to that statement. Therefore don't read it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Cannot the Government take a more sympathetic view of the question and give more licenses?

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Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):* They applied only for that number and all of them were given the total number applied for.

APPLICATIONS FOR SWEET-TODDY TAPPING—KUNNAMKULAM RANGE—PARTICULARS OF

48. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of the applications for sweet-toddy tapping in areas within the Kunnamkulam Excise Range received by the officers of the Excise Department during the months of Medam, Edavam and Mithunam 1115;

(*b*) the total number of trees sought to be tapped by such applications;

(*c*) the number of licenses granted in respect of a plications referred to in (*a*) during that period;

(*d*) the number of trees allowed to be tapped by such licenses;

(*e*) the maximum number and minimum number of trees granted to be tapped to one individual?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):*

(*a*) Medam 8 applications.
Edavam 3 do.
Mithunam 6 do.

(*b*) Sagos 89 and
Palmyra 1

(*c*) Medam 8 licenses
Edavam 3 do.
Mithunam 6 do.

(*d*) Sagos 89 and
Palmyra 1

	Maximum number of trees	*Minimum number of trees*
(*e*) Medam	7 sagos	4 sagos
Edavam	5 „	5 „
Mithunam	10 sagos and 1 palmyra	4 sagos and 1 palmyra

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